when irradiated with light, emits or absorbs light at a first wavelength, the device comprising:

a video mode comprising:

a video mode detector for detecting an image of at least a portion of the substrate known to include the mark; and

a video display for displaying the image; and

a snapshot mode comprising:

a light for irradiating the substrate;

a snapshot mode detector for detecting light emission or absorption of the light-sensitive compound in the mark after the mark has been irradiated, the snapshot mode detector providing data representative of the detected light emission or absorption of the light-sensitive compound in the mark;

a processor cooperating with at least the snapshot mode detector, the processor processing the data independent of the pattern of the mark, the processor comparing the data that is independent of the pattern of the mark to a standard and rendering an authentication signal based on the comparison; and

a snapshot display for displaying the data and the authentication signal.

13. The device of claim 12 further comprising a storage medium for storing the data representative of the detected emission or absorption of the light-sensitive compound in the mark.

14. The device of claim 13 wherein the storage medium comprises a storage medium capable of storing the data in a digital format.

15. The device of claim 13 wherein the storage medium comprises film.

16. The device of claim 13 further comprising at least one of a date and time stamp stored in the storage medium, the at least one of the date and time stamp representing a corresponding at least one of a date and time stamp when the device captured the mark.

17. The device of claim 12 wherein the light comprises a flash.

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18. (Amended) The device of claim 12 further comprising a filter disposed within a light path of the light source to allow light of at least one predetermined wavelength to irradiate the mark.

19. The device of claim 18 wherein the filter is interchangeable such that a filter may be selected based upon the light-sensitive compound within the mark.

20. The device of claim 12 further comprising a touch screen for inputting commands to the device.

21. The device of claim 12 further comprising a display having at least a portion thereof that includes a split screen, with the video display comprising a first half of the split screen and with the snapshot display comprising the second half of the split screen.

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22. (Amended) The device of claim 12 wherein a predetermined color representing the mark is displayed on the snapshot display.

23. The device of claim 12 wherein the device first displays the image when in video mode, displays the mark when in the snapshot mode, then returns to display the image when in the video mode.

86. (New) The device of claim 12 wherein the detected light emission or absorption is detected through a single optical path.

87. (New) The device of claim 12 wherein the snapshot mode detector is adapted to be positioned away from the mark by a distance of as little as six inches.

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88. (New) The device of claim 12 wherein the at least one light-sensitive compound, when irradiated with light, emits or absorbs light at a second wavelength, wherein the snapshot mode detects an emission or absorption intensity at the first wavelength and an emission or absorption intensity at the second wavelength after the mark has been irradiated and wherein the data comprises a ratio of the first intensity to the second intensity or a ratio of the first wavelength to the second wavelength.

89. (New) The device of claim 12 in combination with a mark, the mark comprising the at least one light-sensitive compound, wherein the mark is invisible to the naked eye and a user can only view the mark on the snapshot display.

90. (New) An authentication device for authenticating a mark on a substrate, the mark including at least one light-sensitive compound that, when irradiated with light, emits or absorbs light at a first wavelength and at a second wavelength, the device comprising:

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a video mode comprising:

a video mode detector adapted to detect an image of at least a portion of the substrate known to include the mark; and

a video display adapted to display the image; and

a snapshot mode comprising:

a light adapted to irradiate the mark;

at least one snapshot mode detector adapted to detect a light emission or absorption intensity at the first wavelength and a light emission or absorption intensity at the second wavelength after the mark has been irradiated, the detector providing data representative of the detected light emission or absorption of the light-sensitive compound in the mark at the first and second wavelength;

a processor cooperating with at least the snapshot mode detector, the processor calculating a ratio of the first intensity to the second intensity or a ratio of the first wavelength to the second wavelength, comparing the ratio to a standard and thereafter rendering an authentication signal based on the comparison; and

a snapshot display adapted to display the data and the authentication signal.

91. (New) The device of claim 90, further comprising a storage medium adapted to store the data representative of the detected emission or absorption of the light-sensitive compound in the mark.

92. (New) The device of claim 91, wherein the storage medium comprises a storage medium capable of storing the data in a digital format.

93. (New) The device of claim 91, wherein the storage medium comprises film.

94. (New) The device of claim 91, further comprising at least one of a date and time stamp stored in the storage medium, the at least one of the date and time stamp representing a corresponding at least one of a date and time stamp when the device captured the mark.

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95. (New) The device of claim 90, wherein the light comprises a flash.

96. (New) The device of claim 90, further comprising a filter disposed within a light path of the light source adapted to allow light of at least one predetermined wavelength to irradiate the mark.

97. (New) The device of claim 96, wherein the filter is interchangeable such that a filter may be selected based upon the light-sensitive compound within the mark.

98. (New) The device of claim 90, further comprising a touch screen adapted to accept input commands to the device.

99. (New) The device of claim 90, further comprising a display having at least a portion thereof that includes a split screen, with the video display comprising a first half of the split screen and with the snapshot display comprising the second half of the split screen.

100. (New) The device of claim 90, wherein a predetermined color representing the mark is displayed on the snapshot display.

101. (New) The device of claim 90, wherein the device first displays the image when in video mode, displays the mark when in the snapshot mode, then returns to display the image when in the video mode.

102. (New) The device of claim 90, wherein the detected light emission or absorption is detected through a single-optical path.

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103. (New) The device of claim 90, wherein the snapshot mode detector is adapted to be positioned away from the mark by a distance of as little as six inches.

104. (New) The device of claim 90, wherein the at least one light-sensitive compound consists of one light-sensitive compound that is adapted to emit or absorb light at the first wavelength and at the second wavelength.

105. (New) The device of claim 90, wherein the at least one light-sensitive compound comprises a first and a second light-sensitive compound, wherein the first light-sensitive compound is adapted to emit or absorb light at the first wavelength and wherein the second light-sensitive compound is adapted to emit or absorb light at the second wavelength.

106. (New) The device of claim 90, wherein the mark is of any desired pattern and wherein the data is independent of the pattern of the mark.

107. (New) The device of claim 90, in combination with a mark, the mark comprising the at least one light-sensitive compound, wherein the mark is invisible to the naked eye and wherein the mark is viewable only on the snapshot display.

108. (New) A system for authenticating a mark on a substrate, the system comprising:

a mark comprising at least one light-sensitive compound that, when irradiated with light, emits or absorbs light at a first wavelength; and

a detection device comprising:

a video mode comprising:

a video mode detector adapted to detect an image of at least a portion of the substrate known to include the mark; and

a video display adapted to display the image; and

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a snapshot mode comprising:

a light adapted to irradiate the mark;

a snapshot mode detector adapted to detect light emission or absorption of the light-sensitive compound in the mark after the mark has been irradiated, the snapshot mode detector providing data representative of the detected light emission or absorption of the light-sensitive compound in the mark; and

a snapshot display adapted to display the data;

wherein the mark is invisible to the naked eye and wherein the mark is viewable only on the snapshot display.

109. (New) The system of claim 108, wherein the device further comprises a storage medium adapted to store the data representative of the detected emission or absorption of the light-sensitive compound in the mark.

110. (New) The system of claim 109, wherein the storage medium comprises a storage medium capable of storing the data in a digital format.

111. (New) The system of claim 109, wherein the storage medium comprises film.

112. (New) The system of claim 109, further comprising at least one of a date and time stamp stored in the storage medium, the at least one of the date and time stamp representing a corresponding at least one of a date and time stamp when the device captured the mark.

113. (New) The system of claim 108, wherein the light comprises a flash.

114. (New) The system of claim 108, wherein the device further comprises a filter disposed within a light path of the light source to allow light of at least one predetermined wavelength to irradiate the mark.

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115. (New) The system of claim 114, wherein the filter is interchangeable such that a filter may be selected based upon the light-sensitive compound within the mark.

116. (New) The system of claim 108, wherein the device further comprises a touch screen adapted to accept input commands to the device.

117. (New) The system of claim 108, wherein the device further comprises a display having at least a portion thereof that includes a split screen, with the video display comprising a first half of the split screen and with the snapshot display comprising the second half of the split screen.

118. (New) The system of claim 108, wherein a predetermined color representing the mark is displayed on the snapshot display.

119. (New) The system of claim 108, wherein the device first displays the image when in video mode, displays the mark when in the snapshot mode, then returns to display the image when in the video mode.

120. (New) The system of claim 108, wherein the detected light emission or absorption is detected through a single optical path.

121. (New) The system of claim 108, wherein the snapshot mode detector is adapted to be positioned away from the mark by a distance of as little as six inches.

122. (New) The device of claim 108, wherein the mark is of any desired pattern and the data is independent of the pattern of the mark.

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123. (New) The system of claim 108, wherein the at least one light-sensitive compound emits or absorbs light at a second wavelength, wherein the snapshot mode detector is adapted to detect an emission or absorption intensity of the first wavelength and an emission or absorption intensity of the second wavelength after the mark has been irradiated and wherein the data comprises a ratio of the first intensity to the second intensity or a ratio of the first wavelength to the second wavelength.

124. (New) The system of claim 108, wherein the at least one light-sensitive compound emits light in the IR range.

125. An authentication device for authenticating a mark on a substrate, the mark including a light-sensitive compound that, when irradiated with light, emits light at a first wavelength, the device comprising:

a light adapted to irradiate the substrate;

a detector adapted to detect light emission of the light-sensitive compound in the mark after the mark has been irradiated, the detector providing data representative of the detected light emission of the light-sensitive compound in the mark;

a processor cooperating with the detector, the processor comparing the data to a standard and rendering an authentication signal based on the comparison; and

a display adapted to display the data and the authentication signal.

126. (New) The device of claim 125, wherein the detector comprises a snapshot mode detector and a video mode detector.

127. (New) The device of claim 125, wherein the detector is adapted to detect fluorescent emission from the light-sensitive compound.

128. (New) The device of claim 125, wherein the authentication signal is an audible tone.

129. (New) The device of claim 125, wherein the processor includes a menu-based operating system.

130. (New) The device of claim 129, wherein the operating system is Windows®.

131. (New) The device of claim 125, wherein the device includes a battery meter.

132. (New) The device of claim 125, wherein the device is adapted to interface with a personal computer.

133. (New) The device of claim 125, wherein the device includes an auto-focus lens cooperating with the detector and adapted to direct light emission from the irradiated mark to the detector.

134. (New) The system of claim 125, wherein the device further comprises a storage medium adapted to store the data representative of the detected emission of the light-sensitive compound in the mark.

135. (New) The system of claim 134, wherein the storage medium comprises a storage medium capable of storing the data in a digital format.

136. (New) The system of claim 134, wherein the storage medium comprises film.

137. (New) The system of claim 134, further comprising at least one of a date and time stamp stored in the storage medium, the at least one of the date and time stamp representing a corresponding at least one of a date and time stamp when the device captured the mark.

138. (New) The system of claim 125, wherein the light comprises a flash.

139. (New) The system of claim 125, wherein the device further comprises a filter disposed within a light path of the light source to allow light of at least one predetermined wavelength to irradiate the mark.

140. (New) The system of claim 139, wherein the filter is interchangeable such that a filter may be selected based upon the light-sensitive compound within the mark.

141. (New) The system of claim 125, wherein the device further comprises a touch screen adapted to accept input commands to the device.

142. (New) The system of claim 126, wherein the display has at least a portion thereof that includes a split screen, with a video display comprising a first half of the split screen and with a snapshot display comprising the second half of the split screen.

143. (New) The system of claim 142, wherein a predetermined color representing the mark is displayed on the snapshot display.

144. (New) The system of claim 125, wherein the detected light emission or absorption is detected through a single optical path.

145. (New) The system of claim 125, wherein the detector is adapted to be positioned away from the mark by a distance of as little as six inches.

146. (New) The device of claim 125, wherein the mark is of any desired pattern and the data is independent of the pattern of the mark.

147. (New) The system of claim 125, wherein the at least one light-sensitive compound emits light at a second wavelength, wherein the detector is adapted to detect an emission intensity at a first wavelength and an emission intensity at a second wavelength after the mark has been irradiated and wherein the data comprises a ratio of the first intensity to the second intensity or a ratio of the first wavelength to the second wavelength.

148. (New) The system of claim 125, wherein the at least one light-sensitive compound emits light in the IR range.